

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02178 281448Z

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5790

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 2178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, NL

SUBJ: DEN UYL VISIT: PERSONAL DATA ON G. (GIJS) VAN DER WIEL,
DIRECTOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

REF: STATE 88530

1. AS DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE, VAN DER WIEL ACTS AS PRINCIPAL PRESS OFFICER TO MINISTER PRESIDENT (PRIME MINISTER) DEN UYL AND TO THE ROYAL HOUSE. IN ADDITION HE AND HIS AGENCY, WHICH IS A PART OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, COORDINATES THE INFORMATION EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.

2. VAN DER WIEL WAS BORN ON MARCH 8, 1918 IN NOORDWIJK A SMALL TOWN 15 MILES NORTH OF THE HAGUE. HE ATTENDED THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT DELFT DURING WORLD WAR II WHERE HE MAJORED IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. HE JOINED THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR AND WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF THE FILM SECTION IN 1946. IN 1952 HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND IN 1968 DIRECTOR OF THE SERVICE.

3. VAN DER WIEL HAS REPRESENTED THE NETHERLANDS AT MANY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL FIELD. HE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF DECORATIONS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

4. VAN DER WIEL'S WIFE IS AN OCULIST. THEY LIVE IN DELFT AND HAVE TWO CHILDREN.

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5. VAN DER WIEL TENDS TO STAY IN BACKGROUND AND LET ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES ACT AS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN. HE IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND BUILD. HE HAS A GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH. VAN DER WIEL IS KNOWN ONLY SLIGHTLY TO THE EMBASSY AND WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS POLITICAL VIEWS. HOWEVER, AS A LONG TIME CIVIL SERVANT WHO HAS WORKED FOR ALL THE DUTCH GOVERNMENTS SINCE THE WAR, HE IS BELIVED TO BE RATHER APOLITICAL WITH STRONG LOYALTIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENT RATHER THAN TO ANY PARTICULAR OCCUPANT OF THE POSITION.
TANGUY

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